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NI No. 718-77

31 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Acting, D/DCI/NI  
FROM: James R. Lilley  
National Intelligence Officer for China  
SUBJECT: Intelligence Participation in Interagency  
Working Group on China

1. Action Requested: Request you raise with Secretary Vance at your next meeting with him the participation of an intelligence officer in an Interagency Working Group on China.

2. Background:

-- It was announced in a Cabinet meeting on 28 March that an Interagency Working Group on China was going to be formed.

-- The NSC has said that this Group will be formed upon Secretary Vance's return from Moscow. This move is designed to institutionalize the informal arrangements in effect to date.

-- The Working Group will concern itself with problems related to China which are not suitable to the PRM process. This would include issues such as claims and assets.

-- Currently this type of issue is being handled on an ad hoc basis between State, Defense and NSC without a participant from the intelligence community. This was the case in the previous Administration where a small select group handled sensitive Chinese issues without intelligence community involvement.

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-- I believe that intelligence community participation is essential because we need to make sure that the Group is getting all the facts and getting them straight. Also the intelligence community should be up to date on policy developments and thus be producing relevant information.

3. Staff Position: DDO and DDI concur that intelligence participation is necessary.

4. Recommendation: I recommend that you raise this matter with Secretary Vance in your meeting with him on 6 April. If we do not raise this issue, the intelligence community may well be excluded based on the past record.

[Redacted Signature Box]

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James R. Lilley  
National Intelligence Officer  
for China

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DCI

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Date

DISAPPROVED:

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